

Washington State Employment Security

Sylvia P. Mundy, Commissioner

www.wa.gov/esd

For Immediate Release

Date: Oct. 9, 2003

Contacts: Kristin Alexander, (360) 902-9307

Alicia Cárdenas-Short, (360) 902-9395

Hispanic Workers Can Apply for Unemployment Benefits in Spanish

OLYMPIA – In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Washington State Employment Security Department is saluting Hispanic residents for their contribution to our state's economy and is reaching out to those who may be eligible for unemployment benefits.

Laid-off workers and others who are out of work for no fault of their own may be eligible for unemployment assistance. The department processes unemployment claims by phone and online in both Spanish and English.

Workers can apply for benefits at http://www.go2ui.com 24 hours a day, seven days a week at their convenience or by phone through the state's Unemployment Claims TeleCenters from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except state holidays.

For those who opt to apply by phone, Social Security numbers determine the day of the week that laid-off workers can call. This helps reduce the time on hold for customers and increases efficiency by spreading calls evenly over the week.

Unemployment applicants with Social Security numbers ending in digits 0 to 3 must call on Mondays; digits 4 to 7 on Tuesdays, and digits 8 or 9 on Wednesdays. Anyone who misses his or her designated day can call on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday of the same week without any delay in payment.

Unemployment Claims TeleCenters

Seattle:	English	206-766-6000	Spanish	(206) 766-6063
Tacoma:	English	(253) 396-3500	Spanish	(253) 396-3563
Spokane:	English	(509) 893-7000	Spanish	(509) 893-7063
All other areas:	English	(800) 362-4636	Spanish	(800) 360-2271

Hearing or speech impaired (TTY): (800) 365-8969

#####